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Trump administration fires 17 immigration court judges across ten states, union says

By **REBECCA SANTANA**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Seventeen immigration court judges have been fired in recent days, according to the union that represents them, as the Trump administration pushes forward with its mass deportations of immigrants in the country.

The International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, which represents immigration court judges as well as other professionals, said in a news release that 15 judges were fired “without cause” on Friday and another two on Monday. The union said they were working in courts in 10 different states across the country: California, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Texas, Utah and Virginia.

“It’s outrageous and against the public interest that at the same time Congress has authorized 800 immigration judges, we



A family from Colombia is detained and escorted to a bus by federal agents following an appearance at immigration court Monday, July 14, 2025, in San Antonio.

Associated Press

are firing large numbers of immigration judges without cause,” said the union’s President Matt Biggs.

“This is nonsensical. The answer is to stop firing and start hiring.”

Firings come with courts at the center of administration efforts. The firings come

as the courts have been increasingly at the center of the Trump administration’s hardline immigration enforcement efforts with Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers arresting immigrants as they appear at court for proceedings.

A spokeswoman for the

Executive Office of Immigration Review, which is the part of the Justice Department that oversees the courts, said in an email that the office would not comment on the firings.

The large-scale arrests began in May and have unleashed fear among

asylum-seekers and immigrants appearing in court. In what has become a familiar scene, a judge will grant a government lawyer’s request to dismiss deportation proceedings against an immigrant. Meanwhile, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers are waiting in the hallway to arrest the person and put them on a fast track to deportation as soon as he or she leaves the courtroom.

Immigration court judges are also dealing with a massive backlog of roughly 3.5 million cases that ballooned in recent years.

Cases can take years to weave their way to a final determination, with judges and lawyers frequently scheduling final hearings on the merits of a case over a year out. Unlike criminal courts, immigrants don’t have the right to a lawyer, and if they can’t afford one they represent themselves often using an interpreter to make their case. □

Google partners with Youngkin and offers AI training courses to Virginia job seekers



Republican gubernatorial candidate Glenn Youngkin speaks during an event in Richmond, Va., May 11, 2021.

Associated Press

By **OLIVIA DIAZ**

Associated Press/Report for America

RESTON, Va. (AP) — Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced on Tuesday that Google will partner with his administration to provide free and low-cost artificial intelligence certification courses to Virginians as part of his office’s ongoing effort to connect citizens to new jobs amid changes to the state’s economy. The partnership, which he has described as an AI career launchpad, will provide Google-sponsored AI training courses for up to 10,000 Virginians at any given time, officials said at Google’s office in the northern part of the state. The training opportunities will be listed on a job website that Youngkin launched earlier

this year, in response to significant layoffs among federal workers by the Trump administration, including many workers from Virginia.

“All fields, all career movements somewhere along the way, are going to incorporate this next generation of technology,” Youngkin said at the news conference.

The initiative comes with unemployment rising in Virginia, which has roughly 20,400 continued unemployment claims, state Secretary of Labor George’ Bryan’ Slater said after the news conference. Roughly 2,800 people initially filed unemployment claims during the first week of July, which is about 6.1 percent higher than the previous week. □

America's only rare earth producer gets a boost from Apple and Pentagon agreements

By JOSH FUNK
Associated Press

MP Materials, which runs the only American rare earths mine, announced a new \$500 million agreement with tech giant Apple on Tuesday to produce more of the powerful magnets used in iPhones as well as other high-tech products like electric vehicles. This news comes on the heels of last week's announcement that the U.S. Defense Department agreed to invest \$400 million in shares of the Las Vegas-based company, establish a floor for the price of key elements and ensure that all of the magnets made at a new plant in the first 10 years are purchased.

That unusual direct investment in the company makes the government the largest shareholder in MP Materials.

"This is the kind of long-term commitment needed to reshape global rare earth supply chains," Neha Mukherjee, a rare earths analyst with Benchmark Mineral Intelligence, said in a research note on the Pentagon deal.

Rare earths are a key concern in ongoing U.S. trade talks. China dominates the market and imposed new limits on exports after President Donald Trump announced his widespread tariffs. When shipments dried up, the two sides sat down in London.

Despite their name, the 17 rare earth elements aren't actually rare, but it's hard to find them in a high enough concentration to make a mine worth the investment. They are important ingredients in everything from smartphones and submarines to wind turbines and fighter jets.

The agreement with Apple will allow MP Materials to further expand its new factory in Texas to use recycled materials to produce magnets that make iPhones vibrate. The company expects to start producing magnets for GM's electric vehicles later this year, and this agreement



This 2024 photo provided by MP Materials shows an aerial view of the company's mine in Mountain Pass, Calif.

Associated Press

will let it start producing magnets for Apple in 2027. The Apple deal represents a sliver of the company's pledge to invest \$500 billion domestically during the Trump administration. And although the deal will provide a significant boost for MP Materials, the agreement with the Defense Department is likely to be even more meaningful.

Mukherjee, the analyst, says the Pentagon's 10-year promise to guarantee a minimum price for the key elements of neodymium and praseodymium will guarantee stable revenue for MP Minerals and protect it from potential price cuts by Chinese producers that are subsidized by their government.

The Apple deal to produce magnets from recycled materials will also help, she said, but it won't provide enough magnets to satisfy demand, meaning more sources of these elements are still needed.

Steve Christensen, executive director of the Responsible Battery Coalition, an association representing battery makers, automakers and battery sellers, said he's optimistic that these new investments in MP Materials might be part of a larger trend of increasing domestic production and processing of these key el-

ements.

That's a priority for Trump, and his administration is both helping MP Materials and trying to encourage the development of new mines that would take years to come to fruition. China has agreed to issue some permits for rare earth exports but not for military uses, and much uncertainty remains about their supply.

The fear is that the trade war between the world's two biggest economies could lead to a critical shortage that could disrupt production of a variety of products. MP Materials can't satisfy all of the U.S. demand from its Mountain Pass mine in California's Mojave Desert. □

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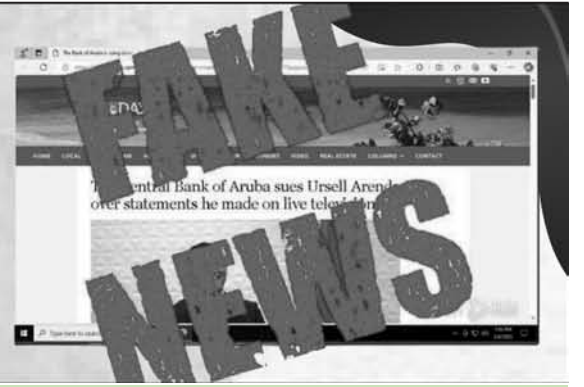
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The Miccosukee Tribe of Florida wants to join a federal lawsuit against 'Alligator Alcatraz'



Work progresses on a new migrant detention facility dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz," at Dade-Collier Training and Transition facility in the Florida Everglades, Friday, July 4, 2025, in Ochopee, Fla.

Associated Press

By KATE PAYNE

Associated Press/Report for America

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida is seeking to join a federal lawsuit aimed at halting the construction and operation of a new immigration detention facility in the Everglades, which tribal members consider their sacred ancestral homelands.

Miccosukee leaders had already condemned the makeshift compound of trailers and tents that rose out of the swamp in a matter of days. But the filing Monday of a motion to intervene in the case initially brought by environmental groups signals a new level of opposition by the tribe, which is also a major political donor in the state. Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis' administration rapidly built the facility, which state officials have dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz," on an isolated, county-owned airstrip inside the Big Cypress National Preserve, about 45 miles (72 kilometers) west of downtown Miami. The Miccosukee have lived on and cared for the lands of Big Cypress "since time immemorial," the filing reads, noting that the tribe played an integral role in pushing for the creation of the national preserve, the country's first. "The

area now known as the Preserve is a core piece of the Tribe's homeland. Today, all of the Tribe's active ceremonial sites and a significant majority of the Tribe's traditional villages (sometimes known as "clan camps") are within the Preserve," the filing reads. To DeSantis and other state officials, locating the facility in the rugged and remote Everglades is meant as a deterrent, a national model for how to get immigrants to "self-deport." The Republican Party of Florida has taken to fundraising off the detention center, selling branded T-shirts and beer koozies emblazoned with the facility's name. Officials have touted the harshness of the area, saying there's "not much" there other than the wildlife who call it home. In fact, the Miccosukee have lived on those lands for centuries, the tribe's attorneys wrote in their motion, which notes that there are 10 tribal villages within a three-mile (4.8-kilometer) radius of the detention center, one of which is approximately 1,000 feet (304 meters) from the facility.

The preserve is a place where tribal members continue to hunt, trap and fish, as well as catch the school bus, hold sacred rituals and bury their loved ones. □



A patient prepares to take the first of two combination pills, mifepristone, for a medication abortion during a visit to a clinic in Kansas City, Kan., Oct. 12, 2022.

Associated Press

U.S. appeals court upholds West Virginia restriction on abortion pill sales

By JOHN RABY

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — A federal appeals court on Tuesday upheld a lower court's decision to restrict abortion pill sales in West Virginia.

A three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia, affirmed a ruling by a U.S. district judge in 2023 despite federal regulators' approval of the abortion pill as a safe and effective medication.

Most Republican-controlled states have enacted or adopted abortion bans of some kind, including restricting abortion pills by default, since the U.S. Supreme Court in 2022 overturned *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 ruling that provided nationwide access to abortion. All have been challenged in court. The Supreme Court ruled in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.

U.S. District Court Judge Robert C. Chambers had ruled that the near-total abortion ban signed by then-Republican Gov. Jim Justice in September 2022 took precedence over approvals from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

"For us to once again federalize the issue of abortion without a clear directive from Congress, right on the heels of *Dobbs*, would leave us one small step short of defiance," 4th Circuit Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III wrote for the court.

"One can of course agree or disagree with the *Dobbs* decision. But that is not the point," Wilkinson said. "At a time when the rule of law is under blunt assault, disregarding the Supreme Court is not an option." West Virginia Gov. Patrick Morrisey, who took office in January, had defended challenges to the abortion law when he served as attorney general. □

U.N. rapporteur calls for global action to stop 'genocide' in Gaza

By MANUEL RUEDA

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) —

The United Nations' special rapporteur for Gaza and the West Bank said Tuesday that it's time for nations around the world to take concrete actions to stop what she called the "genocide" in Gaza.

Francesca Albanese spoke to delegates from 30 countries meeting in Colombia's capital to discuss the Israel-Hamas war and ways that nations can try to stop Israel's military offensive in the territory. Many of the participating nations have described the violence as genocide against the Palestinians. "Each state must immediately review and suspend all ties with the State of Israel ... and ensure its private sector does the same," Albanese said. "The Israeli economy is structured to sustain the occupation that has now turned genocidal."

The two-day conference organized by the governments of Colombia and South Africa is being attended mostly by developing nations, although the governments of Spain, Ireland and China have also sent delegates.

Israel, which was founded



Riyad Mansour, Palestinian U.N. ambassador, left, and U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories Francesca Albanese attend a two-day conference to address the Israel-Hamas war and Israel's military actions in Gaza, in Bogota, Colombia, Tuesday, July 15, 2025.

Associated Press

in the aftermath of the Holocaust, has adamantly rejected genocide allegations against it as an antisemitic "blood libel."

Analysts say it's not clear whether the conference's participating countries have enough leverage over Israel to force it to change its policies in Gaza, where more than 58,000 people have been killed in Israeli military operations following a deadly Hamas

attack on Israel in 2023. The death toll comes from the health ministry, which is under Gaza's Hamas government and does not differentiate between civilians and combatants. The U.N. and other international organizations see its figures as the most reliable statistics on war casualties.

"The United States has so far failed to influence Israel's behavior ... so it is naive to think that this group

of countries can have any influence over (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu's behavior or on the government of Israel," said Sandra Borda, a professor of international relations at Bogota's Los Andes University. She said, however, that the conference will enable some nations of the Global South to clarify their position toward the conflict and have their voices heard. The conference is

co-chaired by the governments of South Africa and Colombia, which last year suspended coal exports to Israeli power plants, and includes the participation of members of The Hague Group, a coalition of eight nations that earlier this year pledged to cut military ties with Israel and to comply with an International Criminal Court arrest warrant against Netanyahu.

For decades, South Africa's ruling African National Congress party has compared Israel's policies in Gaza and the West Bank with its own history of oppression under the harsh apartheid regime of white minority rule, which restricted most Blacks to "homelands" before ending in 1994. South Africa's current argument is rooted in the sentiment that Palestinians have been oppressed in their homeland as Black South Africans were under apartheid.

The gathering comes as the European Union weighs various measures against Israel that include a ban on imports from Israeli settlements, an arms embargo and individual sanctions against Israeli officials, who are found to be blocking a peaceful solution to the conflict. □

Japan calls China's military activity its biggest strategic challenge

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan cau-

tioned against China's rapid acceleration of military activity stretching from

its southwestern coasts to the Pacific, describing the moves in a new defense report Tuesday as the biggest strategic challenge. China's growing military cooperation with Russia also poses serious security concerns to Japan, along with increasing tension around Taiwan and threats coming from North Korea, the Defense Ministry said in the annual report submitted to the Cabinet.

"The international society is in a new crisis era as it faces the biggest challenges since the end of World War II," the report said, citing significant changes to the global power balance while raising concerns about an escalation of the

China-U.S. rivalry.

The security threats are concentrated in the Indo-Pacific, where Japan is located, and could get worse in the future, the report said.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian criticized the white paper, saying it "adopts a wrongful perception of China, unjustifiably interferes in China's internal affairs, and plays up the so-called China threat."

Beijing has lodged protests with Japan, Lin said, defending China's military activities as "legitimate and reasonable." He urged Japan to reflect on its wartime past and "stop hyping tension in the re-

gion and China-related issues as a pretext to justify its military buildup."

Japan has strengthened its military forces on southwestern islands in recent years and was preparing to deploy long-distance cruise missiles, as it worries about a conflict in Taiwan, which China claims as its territory to be annexed by force if necessary.

The presence of Chinese warships in the Pacific has steadily increased and the frequency of their passage off southwestern Japan has tripled in the past three years, including in waters between Taiwan and the neighboring Japanese island of Yonaguni, the report said. □



In this photo provided by Japan's Ministry of Defense, a Chinese JH-7 fighter-bomber, center, is seen close to a YS-11EB electronic-intelligence aircraft, partly seen at left, of the Japan Air Self-Defense Force over the East China Sea on July 9, 2025.

Associated Press

Thousands of Afghans have been brought to Britain in secrecy after a data leak

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Thousands of Afghans, including many who worked with British forces, have been secretly resettled in the U.K. after a leak of data on their identities raised fears that the Taliban could target them, the British government revealed Tuesday.

The government said it is closing the program, which a rare court order had barred the media from disclosing.

"To all those whose information was compromised, I offer a sincere apology today," Defense Secretary John Healey said in the House of Commons. He said he regretted the secrecy and "have felt deeply concerned about the lack of transparency to Parliament and the public."

Healey told lawmakers that a spreadsheet containing the personal information of nearly 19,000 people who had applied to come to Britain after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan was accidentally released in 2022 because of a defense official's email error. The government only became aware of the leak when some of the data was published on Facebook 18 months later.

The then-Conservative government sought a court order barring disclosure of



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron delivers a speech to British and US troops during a visit to Camp Bastion, outside Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital of Helmand province in south Afghanistan, July 4, 2011.

the leak, in an attempt to prevent the personal information being made public any further. The High Court issued an order known as a super injunction that barred anyone from revealing its existence.

The government then set up a secret program to resettle the Afghans judged to be at greatest threat from the country's Taliban rulers. The injunction was lifted on Tuesday in conjunction with a decision by Britain's current Labour Party government to make the program public. It said an independent re-

view had found little evidence that the leaked data would expose Afghans to a greater risk of retribution from the Taliban. The review said the Taliban had other sources of information on those who had worked with the previous Afghan government and international forces, and in any case was more concerned with current threats to its authority.

Some 4,500 Afghans 900 applicants and approximately 3,600 family members have been brought to Britain under the program, and about 6,900 people are expected

to be relocated by the time it closes, at a total cost of about 850 million pounds (\$1.1 billion).

Around 36,000 Afghans have been relocated to the U.K. under other resettlement routes since 2021.

Critics say that still leaves thousands of people who helped British troops as interpreters or in other roles at risk of torture, imprisonment or death.

Sean Humber, a lawyer at the firm Leigh Day, which has represented many Afghan claimants, said the "catastrophic" data breach had

caused "anxiety, fear and distress" to those affected. Nooralhaq Nasimi, founder of the U.K.'s Afghanistan and Central Asian Association, said "thousands of Afghans who supported the U.K. mission many of whom placed their trust in this country have had that trust gravely betrayed."

He urged the government to "offer meaningful compensation, and take urgent steps to protect those still at risk."

British soldiers were sent to Afghanistan as part of an international deployment against al-Qaida and Taliban forces in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

At the peak of the operation, there were almost 10,000 U.K. troops in the country, mostly in Helmand province in the south.

Britain ended combat operations in 2014, and its remaining troops left Afghanistan in 2021 as the Taliban swept back to power, two decades after they were ousted.

The Taliban's return triggered chaotic scenes as Western nations rushed to evacuate citizens and Afghan employees.

Super injunctions are relatively rare, and their use is controversial. Unlike regular court injunctions, super injunctions bar reporting that they were even ordered. □

Associated Press

Equatorial Guinea urges U.N. to block the sale of a Paris mansion seized by France



Vice President of Equatorial Guinea, Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue, addresses the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024, at U.N. headquarters.

Associated Press

By MOLLY QUELL

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Lawyers for Equatorial Guinea accused France of "neo-colonial" behavior on Tuesday, urging United Nations judges to block the sale of a mansion on one of Paris' poshest avenues in the latest instalment in a long-running legal tug-of-war over the multimillion-dollar property.

The African country filed a case at the International Court of Justice in 2022, alleging France is violating international law by refusing to return assets seized during a corruption investigation into Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue, the son of Equatorial Guinea's long-serving president.

France's approach "may be described as paternalistic and even neo-colonial. We cannot accept such disdain for our sov-

ereignty from France," Carmelo Nvono-Ncá, Equatorial Guinea's agent, told The Hague-based court. Equatorial Guinea has asked the court for a series of urgent orders, known as provisional measures, to return the swanky mansion on one of Paris' most prestigious streets, Avenue Foch, and to prevent France from selling the building. Lawyers for France strongly rejected the need for provisional measures, telling judges no sale was imminent and the dispute should be resolved via negotiation. The request "constitutes yet another abusive maneuver" by Equatorial Guinea, France's agent, Diégo Colas, told the court.

In 2020, the international court ruled that the building was a private residence, not a diplomatic outpost, rejecting a claim from Equatorial Guinea that the seizure violated international law. □

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Sonali Lokhande from Somalia.

She wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is about watching relentless lizards. They come in all colours, something different from the ability to camouflage."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □



Create museum memories

ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these museums.

Museum of Industry Aruba



The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry

is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fundación Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

For more information, check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC. In the late 1980's, AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997, the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004, a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006, restoration and construction work began on the monumental build-



ings and the soon-to-be exhibition space. In December 2007, the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location, the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. **For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba.** □



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Visit the island's popular cave sites!

(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadirikiri cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an "off-road" tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves... and be sure to bring a flashlight!

Quadirikiri Cave



Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadirikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).



Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadirikiri cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadirikiri Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

Fontein Cave



Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual ceremonies.



The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love



The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Awarak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy, and don't forget to bring a flashlight!☐



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Dining in? Try making a local favorite How to make "funchi hasa"

(Oranjestad)—A night in can be just as fun as a night out on the town, especially if you got the right snacks to munch on. One of the most famous Aruban snacks or appetizers is "funchi hasa" (fried polenta sticks). A super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

Before we start, get to know the basics

So what is funchi hasa? Funchi, or Aruban polenta, is a popular side dish for local dishes, like soups, stews and fried fish. Made from a corn flour, water and butter mixture, this appetizer is traditionally eaten alongside a warm meal. However, locals also like to fry sticks of funchi for a quick and filling snack.



Ingredients (measured by heart)

1. Polenta flour*
2. Water
3. Butter
4. Salt to taste

Directions

Bring water to a boil in a medium-sized sauce pan. Add in some salt and butter to taste in the boiling water and let this dissolve and melt. Then, gradually add the flour while stirring with a wooden spoon. The mixture will start to begin to harden pretty fast, so be careful not to add too much. At this phase of cooking, you want a goopy thick mixture, but thin enough so you can continue to stir to get all the lumps out.



After reaching a semi-firm, yet flexible texture, grab a baking pan or any large, deep plate, and pour the mixture in. Be sure that this plate is wet or greased so that the mixture does not stick to the bottom. Let this cool completely while it firms up for the last time. Once it's cooled you can enjoy it as is, topped with some butter or shredded cheese. Or, you can take it to another level of deliciousness.



When your funchi is firm enough, cut it into strips (size is up to you). Heat up some oil in a pan and fry those babies up! After frying, you can top it with some cheese or enjoy it with your favorite dipping sauce.

Note: We recommend the FUNCHI FRESKU polenta flour brand that is sold in all supermarkets on the island. You can also use yellow corn flour from the brand PAN. □

Photo credit of fried funchi sticks: Jacqueline Felida on Pinterest.

Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Costa Linda Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Emerald Ambassadors
Mr. John and Mrs. Elaina Puglisi from Manchester, New Jersey, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Costa Linda Beach Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's safety.
- Aruba's good food.
- Aruba has good shopping places.
- Aruba's supermarkets.
- Aruba has very nice people.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □





Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!
Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



“Cacalaca di Lama” Emerita (crustacean)

Episode CCCXII - 312

Aruba is a highly sought-after tourist destination. However, due to its small size, it cannot withstand excessive commercial development. This becomes evident to those who have lived here for a long time and observe the changes closely.

We are witnessing a lack of sustainability as our island's natural environment increasingly falls victim to exploitation. Aruba's ecosystem is fragile—just a small patch of Earth, yet it holds thousands of years of human history and billions of years of geological heritage.

Our traditions teach us to value the little things in life, a mindset shaped by the rhythms of island living. This perspective fuels our deepest desire: to protect and preserve what we have, and in doing so, to educate our visitors about Aruba's cultural and natural heritage.

Once, the waters around Aruba exploded with colorful marine life—octopuses, seahorses, anemones, urchin-covered coral reefs, sea turtles, and more—all thriving just beneath the surface, easily visible with a simple snorkel. Seashells, sand dollars, and hundreds of starfish were a common sight. The vivid red of the Caribbean starfish stood out beautifully against the soft white sand and the deep blue sea.

We enjoyed a vibrant, everyday biodiversity that in recent years has been severely impacted by carelessness, overexploitation, and ignorance. For a long time, global attention on biodiversity focused primarily on rainforests—drawn by their incredible species richness, medicinal potential, and rapid degradation. Fortunately, in recent years, awareness of marine biodiversity has been steadily growing. On our island, human activity and unregulated exploitation have drastically altered both terrestrial and marine environments, leading to the decline of several native species. One such example is a small crustacean from the phylum Arthropoda, locally known as cacalaca di lama, meaning “sea cockroach.” Once so common that we played with them as children, they are now nearly impossible to find—even by chance.

Most children here grow up with a natural curios-



ity about the environment. During our own childhood, daily adventures often included walks along beaches like Andicuri, Malmok, or Palm Beach, where we would dig in the wet sand at the edge of the waves, hunting for treasures—catching little crustaceans, crabs, or worms.

These creatures burrow into the sand and use their feathery antennae to filter food from the water. The cacalaca di lama belongs to the genus Emerita, a group of decapod crustaceans commonly known as mole crabs, sand fleas, or sand crabs.

These small crustaceans have a barrel-shaped body protected by a tough exoskeleton. By tucking their limbs close to their bodies, they maintain balance amid shifting waves. Measuring about 2.5 cm in length, they are resilient and widely distributed across tropical regions. Males are typically smaller than females.

They live in colonies and are highly skilled at burrowing into the sand where the waves break. Using their shells to press into the sand and anchor their limbs, they can bury themselves quickly. However, digging is only possible when the sand is loosened by wave action. For this reason, they must orient themselves quickly and begin burrowing before the wave recedes—an effective strategy for avoiding predators such as fish and seabirds. Due to the constantly shifting conditions, entire

colonies move with the tide, staying within the surf zone.

The cacalaca di lama reaches reproductive maturity within its first year and typically has a lifespan of two to three years. Females release bright orange eggs, which hatch into larvae that drift as plankton for several months. These larvae can travel great distances on ocean currents, contributing to the species' broad distribution.

It leaves us wondering—what happened to our cacalaca di lama, and to so many other native creatures?□

If you enjoyed our stories and want to discover more about Aruba's authentic identity, don't wait until the last days of your stay—book a visit to Etnia Nativa, the only “living museum” of its kind in the Caribbean.

Immerse yourself in this trend-setting cultural experience. Since 1994, we've been dedicated to preserving and sharing Aruba's heritage—as co-founders of Arikok National Park, the Archaeological Museum of Aruba, and board members of several artisan and cultural foundations.

Etnia Nativa offers more than just history; it shares deep-rooted values, timeless knowledge, and a connection to the spiritual soul of the island.

WhatsApp+297 592 2702
etnianativa03@gmail.com



Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins

According to *Etnia Nativa*, in the 18th century most of the inhabitants of Aruba were indigenous who lived on the north coast, one of the largest communities lived in Alto Vista.

As they were very religious, they had a chief with the name of Antonio Silvester who guided them in the Christian life and it was he who decided to build a stone chapel with a roof of corn rods, which would serve as a place of prayer. In 1750 it was blessed by Father Algemesi who came from Coro-Venezuela and appointed Domingo Antonio Silvester as the island's first prosecutor in the name of the Spanish crown and Rome. In 1752 the prosecu-

tion passed into the hands of Antonio Silvester's son-in-law, Miguel Álvarez, who continued to guide the parishioners in their prayers.

According to the book, *The History of Alto Vista* by R.H. Nooyen, it is not known when Domingo Antonio Silvester came to Aruba from Venezuela. The elders believe Antonio was a Spaniard. In 1780, father Joseph Antonio de la Vegal called Bernardino Silvester, one of Antonio's sons with his wife Anna Cathalina Tromp, "neighbors and naturals of the island Aruba" and thus they became natives.

At the end of the eighteen century many inhabitants the island died as a result of the black fever epidemic and since people believed that the Alto Vista area was the most infected, they began to build their homes further south within the Noord area, so the town of Noord began to grow into a community till getting its own Church. However religious festivals continued to be celebrated at this sacred native place, with the custom of arriving in procession to Alto Vista.



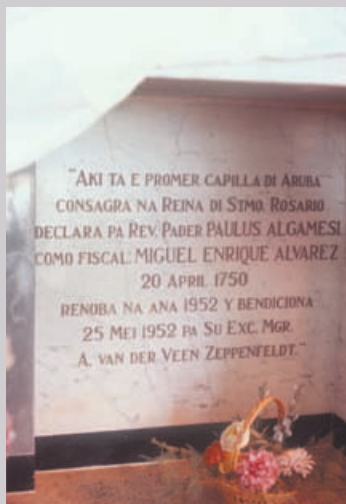
Two-hundred years after the beautiful time of Alto Vista, people can no longer see much of the town of Alto Vista from 1750. With a lot of work they found the old foundations of the Church of the Queen of the Holi-est Rosary to build a new chapel on the same place. The entire surrounding area was empty and desolated, making it hard to imagine that Alto Vista was a town at all. A hundred years later, people can see the remains of around twenty houses, some made of stone and others of clay. Nowadays,

only around six of these houses remain.

South of the chapel in the yard two graves can be observed, there was the cemetery which father Pablo de Algemesi blessed. It is not certain, but it is believed that the two graves belong to Antonio Silvester and Miguel Alvares, according to Nooyen. About 50 meters near the chapel there are still the markings of an old house, where Antonio and Bernardino Silvester would have lived. About 200 meters from the chapel there is a water tank which the

locals call Tanki Cacique. In the past this tank was closed. But mostly water was brought out from the Poz di Noord, a well dug in the sand.

The chapel can be viewed from basically any point in the north side, even from Paradera and Sero Plat. All the historical remains around the chapel provide us with an idea on how the old people of Alto Vista used to live. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a place of historical significance with a window to Aruba's past. □



Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Candelchi!



(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Candelchi" (Squirrelfish), a common, yet shy fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? The Depart-

ment of Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, known as Santa Rosa, offers this informative article that illustrate some fish and their names in Papiamentu.

Candelchi, Squirrelfish, *Holocentrus adscensionis*:

Candelchi actually refers to the entire squirrelfish family or, as some say, when we say candelchi, we

mean several different species but without distinguishing them by species. In this picture, we are showing the most common one in our waters, which is called squirrelfish in English or scientifically known as *Holocentrus adscensionis*.

Under candelchi, we in Aruba generally refer to all the different species of squirrelfish. They all look alike and it's really difficult to distinguish between them.

The squirrelfish family is distinguished by the following characteristics. They are heart-shaped with pink or red hues and often show heart-shaped streaks between the scales along the body. They have hard fins and are always armed. Over at our sister island Curaçao, they are called "bari di clabo" (nail barrel) for that reason.

In our waters, there are 7 to 8 types or species present and they are sometimes caught and seen occasionally. They can be distin-



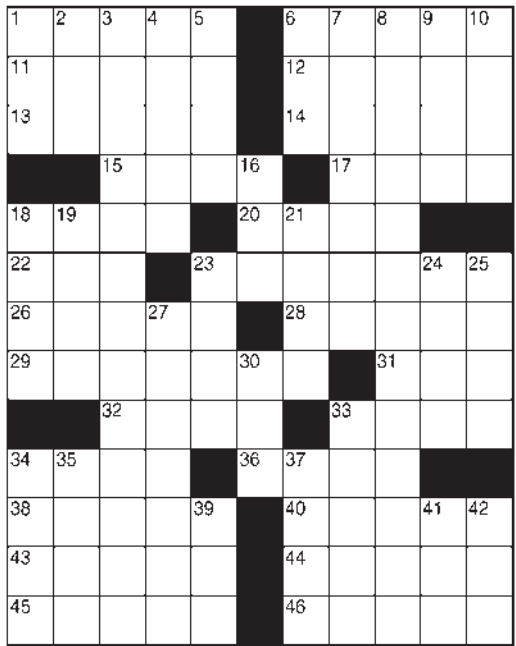
guished by different marks such as color on the dorsal spine or marks on the body.

In Aruba:

Candelchi are found on reefs or areas with structure in the water where they can hide. Although they prefer to hunt for food at night, they are also active during the day. They are edible and delicious when prepared dry and crispy with lime. It is particularly challenging to scale the fish, which is why it is not one of the favorites among fishermen. They often live in groups. □

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Talked madly
 - 6 Spiny plants
 - 11 Spiny plant
 - 12 Detest
 - 13 Musical sounds
 - 14 Small stream
 - 15 Printer's supplies
 - 17 Play parts
 - 18 Sentry's cry
 - 20 Canyon sound
 - 22 Wing
 - 23 Breathes out
 - 26 Yoga position
 - 28 Depiction
 - 29 Start, as an engine
 - 31 Load unit
 - 32 Tablet downloads
 - 33 Final, e.g.
 - 34 Foolish
 - 36 First person
 - 38 Require defrosting
 - 40 Visitor from afar
 - 43 Nemo's creator
 - 44 Do research
- DOWN**
- 1 Squealer
 - 2 Before today
 - 3 Sweet cookies
 - 4 Bit of history
 - 5 Cubicle fixture
 - 6 Fare carrier
 - 7 Isaac's father
 - 8 Kid's quaff
 - 9 Horn
 - 10 Bothers
 - 16 Kinsey subject
 - 18 Crumbling car
 - 19 In addition
 - 21 China flaw
 - 23 Tomb-stone
 - 24 They may clash
 - 25 Posted name
 - 27 Triton circles it
 - 30 Mex. neighbor
 - 33 Stories
 - 34 High-maintenance sort
 - 35 Good pair
 - 37 Arp's art
 - 39 Sulky state
 - 41 Second person
 - 42 Modern



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-21 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

LNJDC UNNSHF HVGNU LF
OVTNVDN CJGNO FVB
OPENDCPY, ZYJHN HVGJDC
OVTNVDN UNNSHF CJGNO FVB
KVBEQCN. — HQV PMB

Cryptoquote: EVERYTHING GOOD, EVERYTHING MAGICAL HAPPENS BETWEEN THE MONTHS OF JUNE AND AUGUST. — JENNY HAN

Cruise ship Schedule: July 17 - 30 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
THU	17	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	17.00	C	1
SUN	20	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	22	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
WED	23	CELEBRITY REFLECTION	07.00	16.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
SUN	27	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
WED	30	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



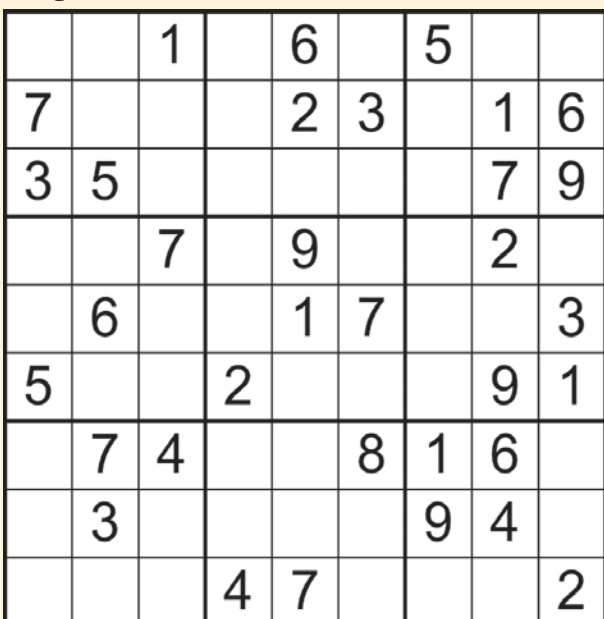
Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku



Difficulty: ★★★ 7/16

Answer to previous puzzle

9	2	6	1	8	7	4	3	5
8	1	4	3	6	5	7	2	9
3	7	5	4	9	2	8	6	1
7	4	9	6	2	1	3	5	8
6	5	1	7	3	8	9	4	2
2	8	3	5	4	9	6	1	7
4	9	8	2	5	3	1	7	6
5	3	7	9	1	6	2	8	4
1	6	2	8	7	4	5	9	3

Difficulty: ★★ 7/15

14 million children did not receive a single vaccine in 2024, U.N. estimates

LONDON (AP) — More than 14 million children did not receive a single vaccine last year about the same number as the year before according to U.N. health officials.

Nine countries accounted for more than half of those unprotected children. In their annual estimate of global vaccine coverage, released Tuesday, the World Health Organization and UNICEF said about 89% of children under 1 year old got a first dose of the diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough vaccine in 2024, the same as in 2023. About 85% completed the three-dose series, up from 84% in 2023.

Officials acknowledged, however, that the collapse of international aid this year will make it more difficult to reduce the number of unprotected children. In January, U.S. President Trump withdrew the country from the WHO, froze nearly all humanitarian aid and later moved to close the U.S. AID Agency.

And last month, Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said it was pulling the billions of dollars the U.S. had previously pledged to the vaccines alliance Gavi, saying the group had "ignored the science." □



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2 Bed WK 7 Oceanside: \$62,000
Ask about weeks 51, 52 & 14

GOLD SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront: \$21,500
2 Bed Oceanside: \$15,500
2 Bed Ocean View: \$14,500
2 Bed Garden View: \$13,000
3 Bed Ocean View: \$30,000

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

PLATINUM SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront: \$60,000
2 Bed Ocean View: \$29,000
1 Bed Ocean Front: \$23,000
1 Bed Ocean View: \$17,500

GOLD SEASON

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Red Cross	582 2219

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Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

One Tech Tip: 'Click-to-cancel' is over, but there are other ways to unsubscribe

By CORA LEWIS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A "click-to-cancel" rule, which would have made it easier for consumers to end unwanted subscriptions, has been blocked by a federal appeals court days before it was set to go into effect. But there are ways to end those subscriptions and memberships, even if they take some work.

The rule would also have required companies to disclose when free trials and promotional offers would end and let customers cancel recurring subscriptions as easily as they started them. But even without the new federal guidance, here are some ways to stay on top of subscription and membership fees.

Use calendar reminders and regularly review your bills

Experts at the Consumer Federation of America recommend setting calendar reminders for whenever a free trial period ends, to alert yourself to cancel promotional offers before the real recurring costs kick in. The auto-enrollment process, in which the company does not remind the consumer via email that a trial is about to end and higher monthly payments will begin, was also at the heart of the FTC's rule.

"No subscription business model should be structured



The logos for streaming services Netflix, Hulu, Disney Plus and Sling TV are pictured on a remote control on Aug. 13, 2020, in Portland, Ore.

Associated Press

to profit from a gauntlet-style cancellation process," said Erin Witte, Director of Consumer Protection for the Consumer Federation of America, in a statement on the click-to-cancel rule. Regularly reviewing your credit card and debit card bills can also help you keep track of any recurring charges including price increases you may have missed or that you didn't anticipate when trying out a new membership or subscription.

Know the terms and conditions of a given subscription

"Companies make it easy for consumers to click to

sign up and easy for the companies to automatically withdraw funds from consumers' accounts," said Shennan Kavanagh, Director of Litigation at the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) in a statement on the FTC's click-to-cancel rule. "People should not (have to) spend months trying to cancel unwanted subscriptions."

Given the FTC's vacated rule, though, companies may still legally require that customers cancel memberships or subscriptions by phone, even as they permit signing up, enrolling, and paying bills online.

Consumer advocates say this places an extra burden of time and energy on the consumer to stop an unwanted recurring fee, but sometimes knowing the terms of the subscription and getting on the phone is worth the trouble.

There are some services that unenroll you

Apps like Rocket Money and services like Trim, which is accessed through a browser, can keep track of your recurring monthly fees and subscriptions, for free or for a fee and can help you catch new ones or even unsubscribe from some services.

For parents, especially, a service like Trim could help inform them that a child has started a new subscription, game or membership before the fees recur. And Rocket Money will actively work to end unwanted subscriptions for you, for a monthly price. If the company can't successfully end or cancel the subscription or membership, it will give the customer the information needed to do so. Trim also provides this service, in its premium form, for an additional fee.

Resist deals when canceling

The FTC is currently moving forward with preparations for a trial involving Amazon's Prime program, which accuses the retailer of enrolling consumers in its Prime program without their consent and making it difficult to cancel subscriptions.

Often, when a consumer tries to cancel a subscription for something like Prime, which offers free delivery and streaming video, the company will offer a month or more of the subscription at a promotional rate half off, or at other, better-seeming values, to entice a customer to stay. Staying strong in the face of what may appear to be a good deal can help you stop recurring monthly fees before you forget to cancel them again. □

Elon Musk's X platform investigated in France for alleged data tampering and fraud



An "X" sign rests atop the company headquarters, formerly known as Twitter, in downtown San Francisco, on Friday, July 28, 2023.

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French prosecutors have launched a police investigation into alleged data tampering and fraud involving X, Elon Musk's social media platform.

The Paris prosecutor's office, in a statement Friday, announced the opening of the investigation, and said that a branch of the French gendarmerie is conducting the inquiry.

The investigation is looking into two alleged offenses "in particular" organized tampering with the functioning of an automated data processing system, and organized fraudulent extraction of data from an automated data processing system, the statement said.

It didn't give details of the alleged wrong-

doing.

It said that the investigation is targeting both the platform and people, without naming them or saying what role they might have within X.

The prosecutor's office said that it was acting on information that two people provided in January to its cybercrimes unit. One of them is a member of parliament, and the other is a senior official in a French government institution. It didn't identify them or the institution.

It said the two people alleged the suspected use of X's algorithm for the "purposes of foreign interference."

It didn't detail the alleged interference or how the algorithm was allegedly used. □



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The Open Championship or the British Open? Even in Northern Ireland it depends on the audience

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PORTRUSH, Northern Ireland

(AP) — Collin Morikawa can take solace in not being the only person to refer to golf's oldest championship by its unofficial name. He delivered a victory speech as sterling as his performance at Royal St. George's in 2021. As he held the precious claret jug, he paid tribute to the spectators and said, "To see some of the best fans I've ever seen out here, I look forward to making my trip every year to the British Open to see you guys cheer us on."

The R&A must have cringed. It had spent the past several years on a renewed branding campaign to drive home the proper name of this major: The Open Championship. It since has been shortened to "The Open."

It is the first. It is the original. And now the 153rd edition is in Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom but is not on the island of Great Britain.

British Open?

The Associated Press referred to this major by different names at the start, but for the last century or more has called it the British Open to distinguish it from other national golf championships. Several other news outlets mainly in the United States, but stretching to other corners of the globe also called it the British Open.

"It's meant to be The Open Championship," said Adam Scott of Australia. "I've probably slipped and called it the British Open, but I do it mostly with Americans so they know which one."

Imagine his surprise may-



Justin Thomas of the United States walks off the 12th green during a practice round for the British Open golf championship at the Royal Portrush Golf Club, Northern Ireland, Tuesday, July 15, 2025. Associated Press

be disgust to learn that when the Open first came to Northern Ireland in 1951, The Daily Telegraph in Sydney wrote: "South African Bobby Locke and English professional Tom Hargreaves today had record scores on Royal Portrush in the second qualifying round of the British Open golf championship."

"Peter Thomson would roll in his grave," Scott said with a smile.

The Open Championship began in 1860 when Willie Park Sr. defeated seven other golfers at Prestwick in Scotland, the home of golf. It took 35 years for another big championship to come along at Newport Country Club in Rhode Island known as the U.S. Open. That was followed by the South African Open, the Canadian Open and the Australian Open.

Just about every country has an Open. The late Robert De Vincenzo has won

more than 15 of them, from the German Open and French Open to the Peru Open and Uruguay Open. He also won the biggest Open of them all at Royal Liverpool in 1967.

"Roberto de Vincenzo, 44-year-old golfing gaucho from the Argentine, climaxed 20 years of fruitless trying Saturday and beat out defending titleholder Jack Nicklaus by two strokes for the British Open Championship," the AP story read.

When the "British Open" began is a little more unclear.

J.H. Taylor won at St. Andrews in 1900 and the AP account referred to the "open golf championship." Except that a few paragraphs later, it noted Taylor registered his "third triumph in the English championships." Never mind that it was played in Scotland. British Open was used in 1914 when Harry Vardon won for

the record sixth time.

The Open left the island Great Britain for the first time in 1951 when it came across the Irish Sea to Royal Portrush. The AP account that year: "Methodical Max Faulkner, a par-wrecking Englishman who spent one winter milking cows to strengthen his golf hands, won the British open championship Friday in a dramatic rain-soaked finish." Arnold Palmer called it the British Open in his autobiography, "A Golfer's Life." But when asked by the R&A to write the foreword in a book celebrating 150 years of golf's oldest championship, Palmer called it "The Open Championship." When in Rome.

Nicklaus was talking about his 1986 Masters victory one year when someone asked him how he decided which of his sons, Jack II and Steve, would caddie at which majors.

"They started splitting it up,"

Nicklaus said. "I think Jackie took the Masters, and I think he had the Open. And Steve had the British Open."

It's an American thing. But not always.

One of the grandest occasions in golf was in 1930, when the great Bobby Jones won the British Amateur at St. Andrews and then captured the claret jug at Royal Liverpool on his way to winning the Grand Slam of that era the impregnable quadrilateral, as it was called.

Geoffrey Beazley, the captain of Royal Liverpool, presented the trophy to Jones with a passionate speech that is worth listening to now for those who feel it is sacrilege to refer to this major as anything but "The Open."

"Another championship, a British Open championship, is completed," he says. Beazley congratulated Jones for not only winning the British Amateur at St. Andrews, "but being here amongst us this evening as winner of the British Open championship."

Ahem.

Of course, the real test will be if the British Open goes to Portmarnock outside Dublin. Unlike Northern Ireland, the country of Ireland is not part of the United Kingdom.

Calling it the British Open would make no sense.

The R&A is in the middle of a feasibility study. Mark Darbon, the new CEO of the R&A, says it is serious about taking the Open out of Britain for the first time.

"If you go back in history, the home territory of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews is the British Isles, basically," he said in a recent interview. □

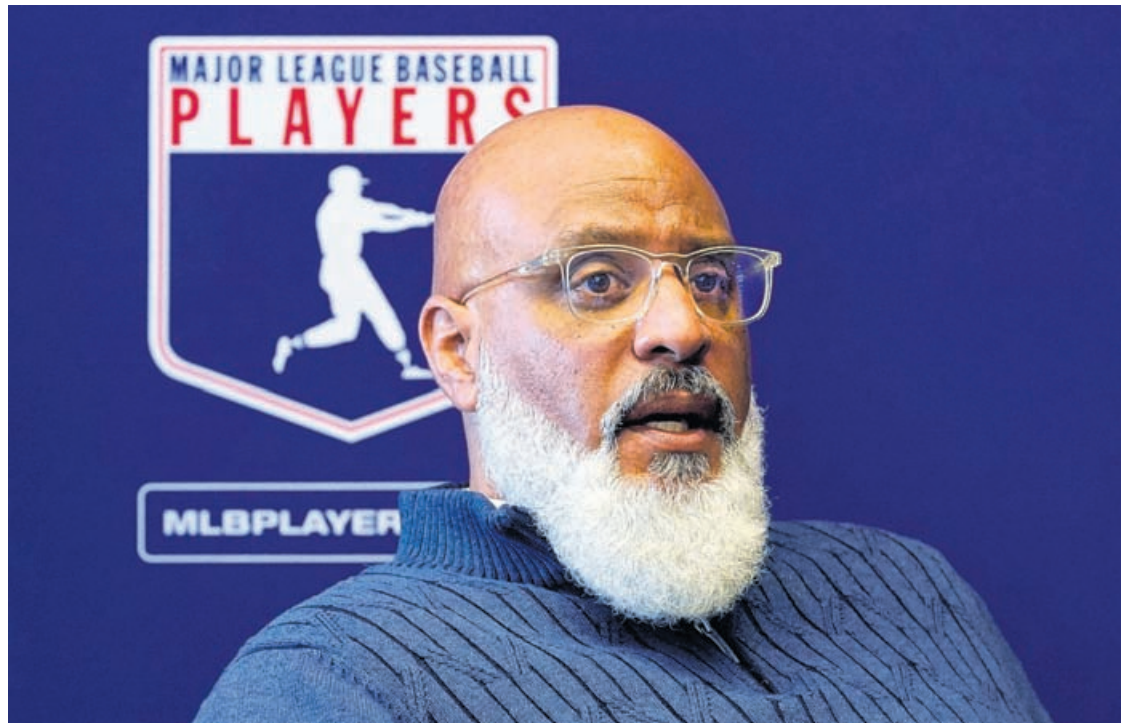
A lockout is looming over MLB in December 2026, with a salary cap fight possibly at the center

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Looming over baseball is a likely lockout in December 2026, a possible management push for a salary cap and perhaps lost regular-season games for the first time since 1995.

"No one's talking about it, but we all know that they're going to lock us out for it, and then we're going to miss time," New York Mets All-Star first baseman Pete Alonso said Monday at the All-Star Game. "We're definitely going to fight to not have a salary cap and the league's obviously not going to like that."

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred and some owners have cited payroll disparity



Major League Baseball Players Association Executive Director Tony Clark answers a question during a news conference in New York on March 11, 2022.

Associated Press

identify a problem in the media business and explain to them that owners need to change to address that problem. I then identify a second problem that we need to work together and that is that there are fans in a lot of our markets who feel like we have a competitive balance problem." Baseball's collective bargaining agreement expires Dec. 1, 2026, and management lockouts have become the norm, which shifts the start of a stoppage to the offseason. During the last negotiations, the sides reached a five-year deal on March 10 after a 99-day lockout, salvaging a 162-game 2022 season.

"A cap is not about a partnership. A cap isn't about growing the game," union head Tony Clark said Tuesday. "A cap is about franchise values and profits. ... A salary cap historically has limited contract guarantees associated with it, literally pits one player against another and is often what we share with players as the definitive non-competitive system. It doesn't reward excellence. It undermines it from an organizational standpoint. That's why this is not about competitive balance. It's not about a fair versus not. This is institutionalized collusion."

The union's opposition to a cap has paved the way for record-breaking salaries for star players. Soto's deal is believed to be the richest in pro sports history, eclipsing Shohei Ohtani's \$700 million deal with the Dodgers signed a year earlier. By comparison, the biggest guaranteed contract in the NFL is \$250 million for Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen.

Manfred cites that 10% of players earn 72% of salaries. "I never use the word 'salary' within one of 'cap,'" he said.

"What I do say to them is in addressing this competitive issue that's real we should think about whether this system is the perfect system from a players' perspective." □

as a problem, while at the same time MLB is working to address a revenue decline from regional sports networks. Unlike the NFL, NBA and NHL, baseball has never had a salary cap because its players staunchly oppose one.

Despite higher levels of luxury tax that started in 2022, the World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers and New York Mets have pushed payrolls to record levels. The last small-market MLB club to win a World Series was the Kansas City Royals in 2015.

After signing outfielder Juan Soto to a record \$765 million contract, New York opened this season with an industry-high \$326 million payroll, nearly five times Miami's \$69 million, according to Major League Baseball's figures. Using luxury tax payrolls, based on average annual values that account for future commitments and include benefits, the Dodgers were first at \$400 million and on track to owe a record luxury tax of about \$151 million shattering the previous tax record of \$103 million set by Los Angeles last year.

"When I talk to the players, I don't try to convince them that a salary cap system would be a good thing," Manfred told the Baseball Writers' Association of America on Tuesday. "I

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